French willingness to set up nuclear power plants in India

2682. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Ambassador, Mr. Jean Benard Merimme has expressed his country's willingness to set up nuclear power plants in India and also to provide the know-how therefor; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Government has received a preliminary offer from France to set up a nuclear power plant in India on a turn-key basis. This offer will be evaluated in the context of any need for imports in the field of nuclear power.

Opposition to country's atomic energy programme by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Officers

2683. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4,000 officers of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have questioned the wisdom of country's atomic energy programme;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Solar remote Centres

2684. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a number of solar remote centres in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the places where these centres are proposed to be set up in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The establishment of 68 2x10W unmanned TV transmitters, planned to operate on solar energy, is included in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan. One of these transmitters has been already commissioned at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan. Four more transmiters are expected to be commissioned, one each at Kavaratti, Minicoy, Amini and Androth in the Lakshadweep group of Islands during March/April, 1987. Installation of the remaining transmitters and their location will depend on the time needed by indigenous manufacturers for phased supply of equipment and the year-wise allocation of plan resources.

Production of Swedish Jas like LCA

2685. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to produce a Light Comba' Aircraft on the lines of Swedish Jos; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government is planning to produce Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) for induction by mid 1990s to meet the specific operational needs of the Air Force. The LCA will be a state-of-art aircraft incorporating advanced technologies and concepts. Air Staff Requirements for the LCA have been finalised. Project Definition Phase of the programme is currently under progress.

Incentive to Toy Industry

2686. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether toy industry have urged Government to reduce levies and give